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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /063 W
---------- 094929
R 241250Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2491
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, BL
SUBJECT: TWO EXTREMISTS KILLED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN COCHABAMBA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: TWO GUERRILLA EXTREMISTS WERE KILLED AND THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ORDER OF COCHABAMBA WAS WOUNDED IN A CONFRONTATION ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 17, FIVE KILOMETERS OUTSIDE OF COCHABAMBA. END SUMMARY

2. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON SEPT 18 CONCERNING THE INCIDENT STATING THAT ITS ANTECEDENTS DATED BACK TO JULY 21 WHEN TWELVE EXTREMISTS BELONGING TO THE ELN (NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY) AND PRT-B (REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY-BOLIVIA) WERE ARRESTED. AT THAT TIME THE AUTHORITIES OBTAINED INFORMATION THAT AMONG OTHERS, AN ARGENTINE, LUIS STAMPONI, ALIAS "GERARDO" AND AN URUGUYAN, ALBERTO VIROSTA, ALIAS "GILLE" WERE IN HIDING IN BOLIVIA. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, A SECURITY INVESTIGATION LEG AUTHORITIES TO A SAFE-HOUSE IN COCHABAMBA WHERE A SHOOTOUT BEGUN BY THE EXTREMISTS OCCURRED ON SEPT 17. VIROSTA, A MEMBER OF THE URUGUYAN
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TUPAMAROS AND LUIS CAMACHO SUAREZ, ALIAS "VICENTE", HEAD OF

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THE REGIONAL PRT-B IN COCHABAMBA WERE KILLED DURING THE OPERATION. THE SECURITY FORCES SEIZED A TRUCK, ARMS, AMMUNITION, DOCUMENTS, PAMPHLETS AND PRINTING EQUIPMENT. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS CONTINUING TO DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF STAMPONI AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF HIS GROUP.

3. THE SEPT 23 ISSUE OF THE LA PAZ DAILY, HOY, REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF PERSONS INCLUDING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED IN COCHABAMBA LAST WEEKEND AS A RESULT OF THE SEPT 17 ENCOUNTER. THE DAILY STATES THAT INTERIOR MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ARRESTS WERE MADE, BUT CLAIM THAT MOST OF THOSE DETAINED WERE RELEASED AFTER MAKING THEIR DECLARATIONS. SEVERAL OTHERS WHO WERE NOT NAMED ARE SUPPOSEDLY STILL BEING HELD WHILE THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: BOLIVIAN SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, WITH WHAT IS LEFT OF THE EXTREMIST GROUPS VERY MUCH ON THE RUN. MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA IS EXHIBITING SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE TO CLAIM THAT THE LAST STRONGHOLDS OF THE EXTREMISTS IN BOLIVIA HAVE BEEN LIQUIDATED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. THIS MAY BE SOMEWHAT OF AN EXAGGERATION BUT THE SITUATION DOES SEEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL AT THIS MOMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERINSURGENCY, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAPAZ07625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760362-0518
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760924/aaaaatzh.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO EXTREMISTS KILLED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN COCHABAMBA BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINS, PINT, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006